



### **Fr. Gerd-Willi BERGERS, SMM began his second mandate**

**MARIENHEIDE, Germany** - On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, Fr. Gerd-Willi BERGERS, SMM began his second mandate as Superior of the General Delegation of Germany and assisted by the councillors, Fr. Francis Xavier ANTONY, SMM and Bro. Johannes BOSSMANN, SMM. The new term of three years began with the commissioning by the Assistant General, Fr. Marco PASINATO, SMM, in a festive Holy Eucharist at the shrine of Our Lady of Visitation in Marienheide, together with the confreres and some parishioners. The first official activity of the new Council was to attend the thanksgiving celebrations for the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Fr. Edmund JÄCKEL, SMM on September 4 in Bonn.

In his message addressed to the confreres through the Delegation Newsletter “*Montfortaner Patres*”, Fr. Gerd-Willi wrote, “*We would therefore like to express our sincere thanks for the trust placed in us by Father General and yourselves and hope that we do not disappoint your expectations ... Personally, I would like to thank Francis and Johannes from the bottom of my heart for their willingness to continue working together for the benefit of our congregation in the coming years ... We are very grateful for any suggestions and requests ... with the wish of a continued good and fruitful cooperation with you and the Council.*”

The constituent meeting of the Council took place on October 20 with a review and reflections on what lies ahead for the delegation. Fr. Gerd-Willi would like to visit all the confreres in the near future. After consultation with the confreres, the new appointment of the local communities’ superiors will take place in the next few weeks. On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the “*Missionwerk*” in Fremersdorf will be officially dissolved.